

We claim:

1. A method of generating performance data on investments held in a trading account, said method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a request for the performance data from a user over a computer network;
 - accessing a first database that is remotely located with respect to the requesting user, in which transaction records of said trading account are maintained;
 - retrieving transaction records that are necessary to generate the performance data from said first database;
 - accessing a second database in which security price data are maintained;
 - retrieving security price data that are necessary to generate the performance data from said second database;
 - generating the performance data based on the retrieved transaction records and the retrieved security price data; and
 - transmitting the performance data to the requesting user over the computer network.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the security price data is maintained in the second database in real-time.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the performance data includes a net worth calculation of the investments.
4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the net worth calculation includes calculation of commissions and tax liability.
5. The method according to ~~claim 4~~, wherein the net worth calculation includes margin interest cost.

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6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first database is maintained by an institution that is managing the trading account.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer network comprises the Internet.

8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of receiving identifying data about the trading account from the user over the computer network, wherein the step of accessing the first database includes the step of transmitting the identifying data to a manager of the trading account and receiving permission from the manager to access the first database.

9. A method of generating performance data on investments held in multiple trading accounts, said method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a request for the performance data;
- accessing databases in which transaction records of said trading accounts are maintained;
- retrieving transaction records that are necessary to generate the performance data from said databases; and
- generating the performance data based on the retrieved transaction records.

10. The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of retrieving security price data from another database, wherein the performance data is generated based on the retrieved transaction records and the security price data.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the performance data includes a net worth calculation of the investments.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the request is received over a computer network from a user and further comprising the step of transmitting the performance data to the user over the computer network.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of receiving identifying data about the trading accounts from the user over the computer network, wherein the step of accessing the databases includes the step of transmitting the identifying data to a manager of the trading accounts and receiving permission from the manager to access the databases.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the trading accounts are managed by more than one manager.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the computer network comprises the Internet.

16. The method according to claim 10, wherein the security price data is updated in real-time and further comprising the step of generating an update of the performance data on a periodic basis based on the real-time security price data.

17. A method of producing a balance sheet for an investment portfolio comprising the steps of:

automatically retrieving transaction records of the investment portfolio, the transaction records including data on cash invested and security purchases and sales;

automatically calculating entries on an assets side of the balance sheet based on the transaction records; and

automatically calculating entries on a liabilities side of the balance sheet based on the transaction records.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the step of retrieving includes the step of accessing a database that is maintaining the transaction records of the investment portfolio over a computer network.

19. The method according to claim 17, wherein the investment portfolio comprises investments held in multiple trading accounts and the step of retrieving includes the step of accessing databases that are maintaining the transaction records of the investment portfolio over a computer network.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the step of accessing the databases includes the step of transmitting identifying data about the trading accounts to managing institutions who are managing the trading accounts and receiving permission from the managing institutions to access the databases.

21. A method of generating a tax report for an investment portfolio, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a user to generate the tax report over a computer network;

accessing a database of a managing institution that is managing the investment portfolio, the database including transaction records of the investment portfolio including data on investment purchases and sales;

calculating a tax liability based on the transaction records; and

generating a tax liability report based on the calculated tax liability.

22. The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of transmitting the tax liability report over the computer network to said user.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein the investment portfolio comprises investments held in multiple trading accounts at different institutions and

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databases of said different institutions are accessed to retrieve the transaction records of the investment portfolio.

24. The method according to claim 23, wherein the step of accessing the databases includes the step of transmitting identifying data about the trading accounts to the different institutions and receiving permission from the institutions to access the databases.

25. A method of generating a performance report for an investment portfolio based on a hypothetical sale of at least one investment in the investment portfolio, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for the performance report from a user over a computer network, the request specifying the hypothetical sale;

retrieving transaction records of said investment portfolio; and

generating the performance report based on the retrieved transaction records.

26. The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of retrieving security price data from a price database, wherein the performance report is generated based on the retrieved transaction records and the security price data including the price of the investment that was hypothetically sold.

27. The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of transmitting the performance report to the user over the computer network.

28. The method according to claim 27, wherein the step of retrieving includes the step of accessing a transaction database that is maintaining the transaction records of the investment portfolio over the computer network.

29. The method according to claim 27, wherein the investment portfolio comprises investments held in trading accounts at different institutions and the step of

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retrieving includes the step of accessing plural transaction databases that are maintaining the transaction records of the investment portfolio over the computer network.

30. The method according to claim 29, wherein the step of accessing the transaction databases includes the step of transmitting identifying data about the trading accounts to said institutions who are managing the trading accounts and receiving permission from the institutions to access the databases.

31. A server computer connected to a plurality of client computers over a computer network, the server computer comprising:

an input management unit for receiving identification data of an investment portfolio and a request to generate a performance report of the investment portfolio from a client computer;

a bi-directional communication interface for sending the identification information to a managing institution and receiving transaction records of the investment portfolio from the managing institution;

a processing unit for generating the performance report of the investment portfolio from the transaction records; and

an output management unit for transmitting data representative of the performance report to the client computer.

32. The server computer according to claim 31, further comprising a second bi-directional communication interface for sending a request for security price data to a security price reporting service and receiving the requested security price data therefrom.

33. The server computer according to claim 32, wherein the server computer is connected over a wireless network to hand-held computers.

34. A computer network for tracking performances of a plurality of investment portfolios, comprising:

a server computer;
a plurality of client computers connected to the server computer; and
a plurality of databases each associated with a different institution, each database storing transaction records of an investment portfolio that is kept at that institution, wherein the server computer is programmed to receive requests for performance data on an investment portfolio from one of the client computers, retrieve the transaction records for the investment portfolio responsive to the request, generate the performance data based on the transaction records, and transmit the performance data to the requesting client computer.

35. The computer network according to claim 34, further comprising a security price database connected to the server computer, wherein the server program is further programmed to retrieve security price data from the security price database and generate the performance data based on the transaction records and the security price data.

36. The computer network according to claim 34, wherein the security price database provides real-time security price data.

37. The computer network according to claim 36, wherein said server computer is programmed to access each database of said plurality of databases and to provide composite performance data based on the entire investment-based on the entire investment portfolio at all of said institutions.

38. The computer network according to claim 36, wherein said performance data includes real net worth data which includes calculations taking into effect commissions and tax liability.

39. The computer network according to claim 38, wherein the client computers comprise hand-held computers.

40. A method of generating performance data including a real net worth calculation on investments held in a trading account, said method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a request for the performance data including the real net worth calculation from a user over the Internet;
- accessing a first database that is remotely located with respect to the requesting user, in which transaction records of said trading account are maintained;
- retrieving transaction records that are necessary to generate said performance data from said first database, the transaction records including data on cash invested and security purchases and sales;
- accessing a second database in which security price data are maintained;
- retrieving real-time security price data that are necessary to generate said performance data from said second database;
- generating said performance data based on the retrieved transaction records and the retrieved security price data; and
- transmitting said performance data to the requesting user over the Internet.

41. The method according to claim 40, wherein the performance data includes balance sheet data and further comprising the step of calculating entries on an assets side of the balance sheet and a liabilities side of the balance sheet based on the transaction records.

42. The method according to claim 41, wherein the investment portfolio comprises investments held in multiple trading accounts and the step of retrieving includes the step of accessing databases that are maintaining the transaction records of the investment portfolio over the Internet.

43. The method according to claim 42, wherein the user request includes a request to generate a tax report, and further comprising the steps of:

- calculating a tax liability based on the transaction records; and
- generating a tax liability report based on the calculated tax liability.

44. The method according to claim 41, wherein the user request includes a hypothetical sale of at least one investment in the investment portfolio, and wherein the performance data is generated based on the retrieved transaction records and the hypothetical sale.

45. The method according to claim 41, wherein the investment portfolio comprises investments held in multiple trading accounts and the step of retrieving includes the step of accessing databases that are maintaining the transaction records of the investment portfolio over the Internet, and wherein the user request includes a request to generate a tax report and a hypothetical sale of at least one investment in the investment portfolio, and further comprising the steps of:

calculating a tax liability based on the transaction records; and

generating a tax liability report based on the calculated tax liability,

wherein the performance data is generated based on the retrieved transaction records and the hypothetical sale.

46. The method according to claim 45, wherein the multiple trading accounts are managed by different institutions.

47. The method according to claim 40, wherein the report is generated in a language other than English.

48. The method according to claim 40, further comprising the step of accessing a third database in which currency exchange rates are maintained, wherein the step of generating said performance data is also based on the retrieved currency exchange rates.

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